

Report for the Psychology Department Space Planning Committee

May 28, 2020

Psychology Department Graduate Student Survey Results

Graduate Student Representatives to the Space Planning Committee

The student representatives of the Space Steering Committee, in collaboration with area sub-committee representatives, conducted the following single-item survey. **We received 41 responses, constituting engagement from over half of the graduate student population.**

We wanted to better understand how students are envisioning trade-offs in this new facility. **We are sharing it with the committee to help distill student priorities** as we consider ways to maximize productivity for all department members in this new space.

We are conducting this survey because there will likely be trade-offs as we move into this very different new space, and we want to be able to best represent the concerns of all graduate students in these decisions. The main trade-off is between direct access to natural light (windows) and physical proximity/centralization of lab spaces.

Below, please rank your prioritization of each point, with “1” indicating highest priority and “6” indicating lowest priority.

Minimizing noise

Semi-privacy of your office/workspace

Direct access to kitchen spaces (e.g. electric kettle, microwave, sink)

Access to filtered, indirect light

- Offices will be centralized in a “cluster” design that includes other lab spaces (e.g. testing rooms, kitchen, and small conference room shared with other labs in cluster)
- Light would be filtered through multiple semi-translucent glass walls suffusing light in from the rooms on the perimeter of the building

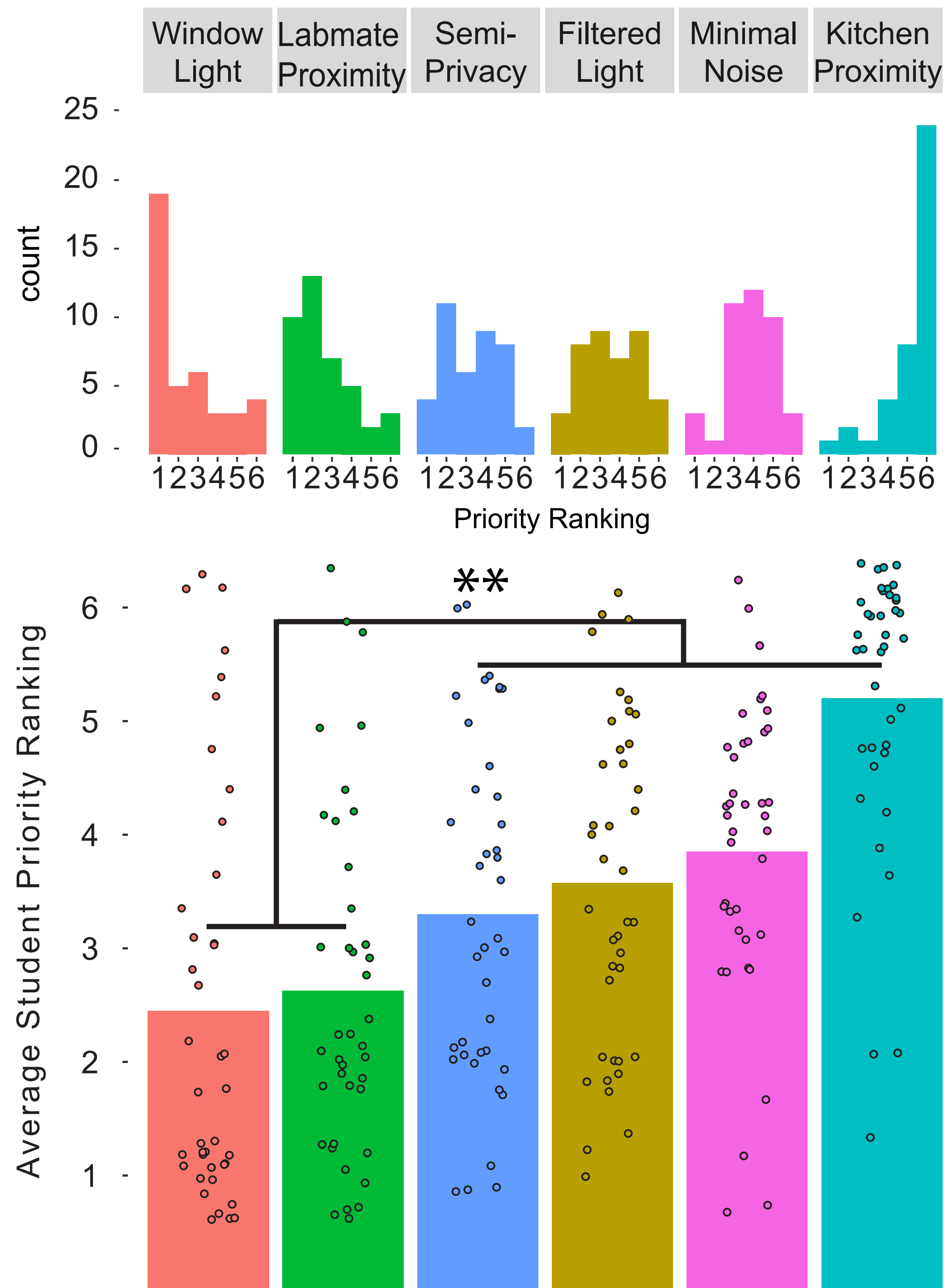
Physical proximity to lab mates

Direct access to natural light (a window)

- Offices would be along the perimeter
- Testing rooms, conference rooms, and kitchens would likely be separated from offices by a hallway
- Individual labs will be less centralized and more dispersed in order to maximize window access in lab member work spaces

Students Prioritize Window Access and Proximity to Peers

Overall, students most highly prioritized **direct access to a window** ($N = 19/41$), even when accounting for the necessary trade-offs of less centralization and potential separation from other lab spaces, and **proximity to labmates** ($N = 10/41$).



Direct access to a window

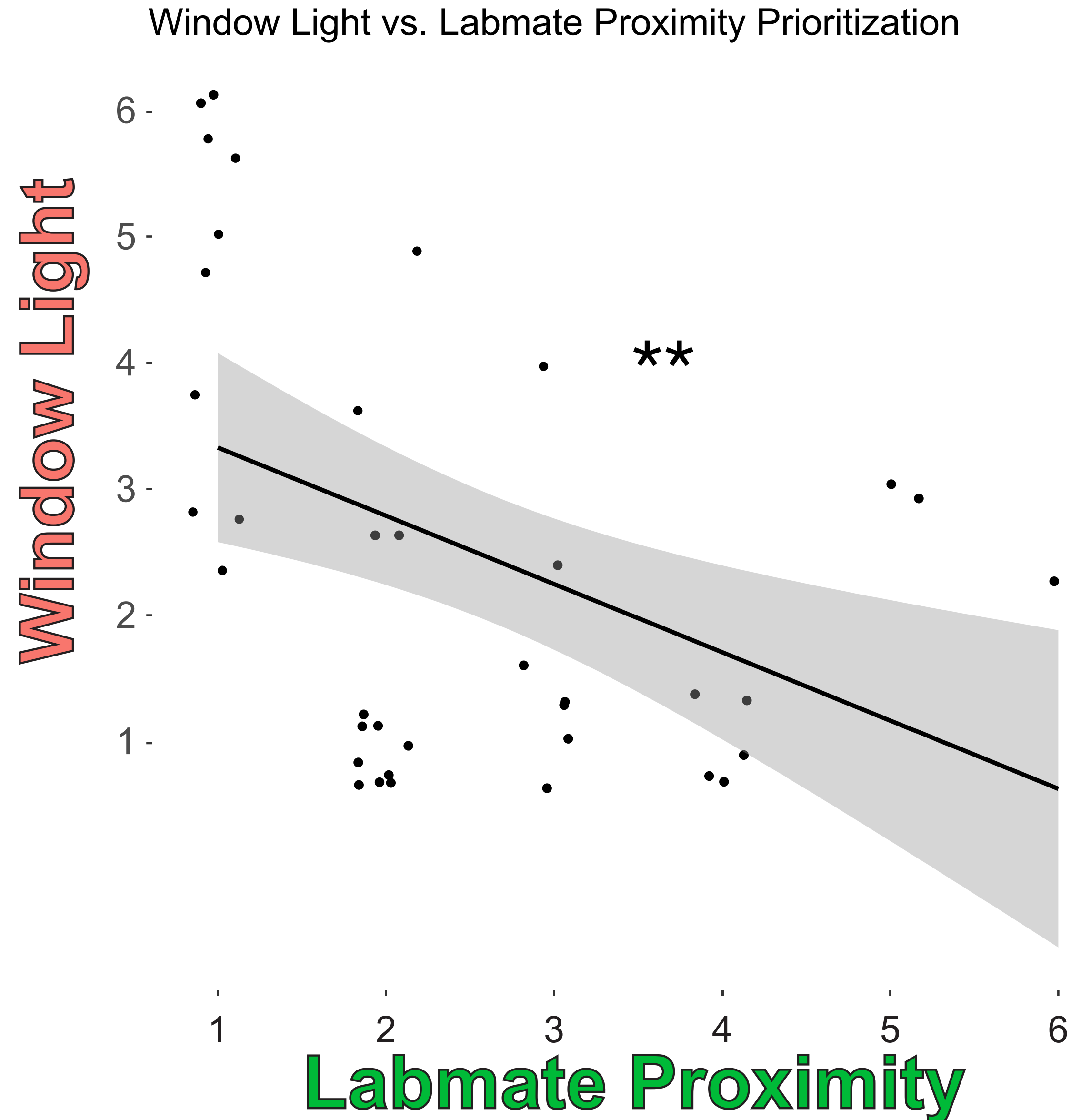
and

proximity to labmates

were ranked significantly higher in priority than any other survey item (FDR corrected pairwise p 's < 0.01)

Opposing Priority Alignments can still be Compatible

To examine whether students treated access to windows and proximity to labmates as trade offs, we correlated individual prioritization of these two items, revealing negative relationship between them ($\tau=-0.44$, $p<0.01$). In other words, **students who prioritized window light tended to rank labmate proximity as lower priority, and vice versa.**



Critically, however, we see **these two priorities as compatible in designing the new space.** As discussed by the committee, there is potential for student offices along the perimeter to be flexibly structured such that labs can have students housed in semi-private offices or in larger, open-layouts. This option would **retain labmate proximity while allowing for window access in workspaces.**



We look forward to discussing this further in future committee meetings!